premises. In addition, the embassy arranged meetings with the Company Management and the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labour, Kuwait to resolve the issue. Due to the concerted efforts of the Embassy, 38 nursing assistants have returned to India on tickets provided by the Company. 35 nursing assistants rejoined duties in the Company However, of the remaining 107 nursing assistants, 98 still continue to stay in the Embassy premises while 9 have chosen to have the Embassy on their own. Sonne of the 98 have decided to either file a case in a Kuwaiti court or negotiate through the Ministry of Social Affairs' and Labour; others have not made a (decision as yet. The Indian Ambassador is personally monitoring the situation and is hopeful of an amicable solution even in respect of the 98 remaining nursing assistants.

Bogus Passports Issued by Regional Passport Office, Mumbai

943. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information about the touts working in and outside the Regional Passport Office in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of bogus passports issued from the Regional Passport Office in Mumbai during the last two years; and

(d) the details of those found guilty and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (.SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) From time to time, government receives information about touts working outside Regional Passport Office in Mumbai. Whenever such cases come to the notice of Regional Passport Officer, he asks the concerned agencies to take action against them. However there are no touts working inside the Regional Passport Office, Mumbai.

(c) No case of issue of bogus passport by the Regional Passport Office, Mumbai, during the last two years, has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Countries Supporting India's Stand on Jammu and Kashmir

944. SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:
SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any classified information of the countries which support India's stand on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir on the different international fora;

(b) if so, what are the names of those countries; and

(c) the names of those countries which favour Pakistan's stand on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (c) There is widespread recognition, in the international community, of India's position on Jammu and Kashmir. The international community also appreciates that the State of Jammu and Kashmir has been a victim of trans-border terrorism. India's policy of resolving all differences with Pakistan peacefully through bilateral discussions has received extensive support. The recently resumed bilateral dialouge between the two countries has been widely welcomed.

Distribution of Anti-India Literature by Pakistan

945. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Foreign Secretaries' level talks held recently between India and Pakistan to

cease Hostile propaganda against each other, Pro-Pakistan banners were displayed and anti-India literature distributed during the visit of a Sikh Jatha to a Gurudwara in Lahore;

(b) whether this incident has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan; and

(c) if sq, what is Pakistan Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b) During the visit of Sikh/ Sehejdhari Jatha to Pakistan from 20-29 June, 1997 on the occasion of Barsi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, anti-India banners were displayed and anti-India literature was distributed at Gurdwara Dera Sahib, Lahore.

A protest was lodged with the Government of Pakistan in which it was pointed out that these activities constitute hostile propaganda and a provocative action against India and hence are contrary to the Joint Statement issued in Islamabad on 23rd June, 1997 at the conclusion of the Foreign Secretary level talks held between the two countries.

(c) Government of Pakistan have denied any official involvement in these activities.

Dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani

946. SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dispute between India and Nepal over Kalapani situated on Nepal's far western frontier;

(b) whether it is a fact that recently expert-level talks between both the countries were held;

(c) if so, what has been the outcome of the talks;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Nepal has objected to the presence of Indian troops at Kalapani; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) to (e) During the visit of the Prime Minister to Nepal from 5th to 7th June, 1997, it was decided that the expert-level Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted by the Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee should meet within a month to examine relevant facts relating to the demarcation of the boundary alignment in the western sector, including the Kalapani area, and to propose, if necessary, further measures in this regard. In this context, Nepal also referred to the presence of Indian troops at Kalapani (an ITBP post is located there).

Boundary identification work is an ongoing process, undertaken jointly in accordance with agreed basis maps, under the guidance of the Joint Technical Level India-Nepal Boundary Committee set up in 1981. A time bound programme for joint identification of the boundary was drawn up in 1995. Work is proceeding apace.

In accordance with the decision taken during Prime Minister's visit, the JWG met in Kathmandu in the first week of July, 1997. The two sides had a useful initial exchange of views on the demarcation .of the boundary alignment in the western sector, including the Kalapani area. It was agreed to continue the dialogue. The boundary survey would be given priority.

Unilateral steps to Normalise Relations with Pakistan

947. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have unilaterally taken any steps to normalise our relations with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the broad details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received appropriate response to those measures from the government of Pakistan; and